

CHANGES FOR 2009/2010 – RPSC AND NANA EMPLOYEES

Please take a moment to review changes for the upcoming season, and contact the Deployment Specialists Group with concerns or questions.

1-800-688-8606 (prompt 2) or 303-790-8606 (prompt 2) or deploy@usap.gov

Passports

U.S. Customs require, and enforce, a passport valid for six months *after* your return. You can and will be denied boarding at gateway cities (Los Angeles, Dallas, Miami) if your passport does not meet this requirement. RPSC must have verification, either a copy of the passport title page or a completed Passport Details form (DSG-DT-100AS), before we can issue your ticket. Please take the time to check your passport *now*, especially if you plan leisure travel afterwards. Remember that RPSC reimburses passport costs up to \$150.

USAP Luggage Tags

American Airlines now *requires* USAP luggage tags on international flights. You **MUST** use a purple USAP luggage tag on each checked bag this season. Ask at Orientation if you need extras.



Full Middle Names

Airlines increasingly require full middle names on travel documents. Please provide your full middle name on deployment forms when requested, or state "NMI" for no middle initial.

ESTA

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security requires participants with non-U.S. passports to register with ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorization) at <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>. You can do it now or when you receive your final itinerary. (We'll remind you.)

Sydney

Most of you will deploy through Sydney this season instead of Auckland.

- Participants with non-U.S. passports must obtain a transit visa *before* deploying. Apply online at www.australianvisaonline.com/#australia_transit_visa; there is no charge. If in doubt, contact an Australian Embassy or Consulate.
- Wait until Sydney or Christchurch to purchase duty-free liquids, aerosols or gels (LAGs). LAGs purchased at LAX will be confiscated in Australia. Non-LAG purchases are allowable.
- QANTAS personnel will meet your flight and escort you to the Transfer Area. You will not be able to leave the terminal or receive your checked baggage. You will be re-screened again before your flight to Christchurch, but will bypass Australian Customs. Checked baggage will transit directly from the United States to Christchurch – you will not receive it in Sydney.
- Leaving the terminal is in violation of Australian law.

Currency Exchange

Travelex offices at the Auckland airport and in downtown Christchurch (Cathedral Square and Colombo/Armagh Streets) are the only offices that waive currency exchange fees for USAP participants. Present the USAP Travelex letter in your travel folder and your passport.

New Luggage Allowance

Effective September 29, 2009 the checked baggage allowance for USAP flights between Christchurch and Antarctica is increased to 150 pounds (68 kg) for summer and winter participants. This allowance is the **combined checked weight** of your ECW gear and personal luggage. Maximum weight for a single piece is 70 pounds (32 kg).

At WINFLY, the baggage allowance remains 75 pounds (34 kg) for summer participants and 145 pounds (66 kg) for winter participants, due to operational considerations. However, items can be mailed through the Christchurch APO and will be sent to McMurdo during WINFLY on a space-available basis.

Changes to the RPSC-issued commercial airline flights are not affected and remain 70 pounds maximum per checked bag.

E-Mail Addresses

USAP e-mail addresses changed from first.last@usap.gov to either first.last.contractor@usap.gov or first.last.guest@usap.gov. This applies to your contacts within RPSC as well as your own e-mail address on the Ice.

RPSC and NANA employees changed to first.last.contractor@usap.gov.

Grantee e-mail addresses changed to first.last.guest@usap.gov.

More details:

- All NSF (sub)contractors, including RPSC, NANA, PHI, KBA, SPAWAR contract and full-time employees, have “contractor” addresses. Grantees and visitors have “guest” addresses.
- Generic and group e-mail addresses, such as medical@usap.gov or MCM-MacOps, remain the same.
- Military and U.S. Government e-mail addresses remain the same.
- Vessel addresses still use the vessel name to the right of the @ sign, e.g., first.last.guest@img.usap.gov.

Airlines

Airline operating policies continue to present challenges to the Program. We aim to accommodate everyone’s travel preferences, but please be flexible.